



OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

VIA EMAIL

October 10, 2019

Maraya Cornell
MuckRock News
DEPT MR 79838
411A Highland Ave
Somerville, MA 02144-2516

Re: OIG-2020-00013

Dear Maraya Cornell:

This is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated October 8, 2019 which was received by the Office of Inspector General (OIG) on the same date. You request the following information under the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552:

- Case file, including complaints, interviews, reports, case notes, and closing summaries, for an investigation into disabled or improperly installed equalizer valves at oil wells operating on public lands in the Uinta Basin, Utah. The case was initiated by the BLM in or around May 2007, and eventually became a joint investigation with the OIG. The investigation resulted in a settlement on or around March 31, 2011 with Berry Petroleum Co., as reported in trade journals.

Your request has been assigned FOIA Control Number OIG-2020-00013. Please refer to this number in any future communications with our office regarding your request.

Your letter states that you request a fee waiver for this request, and upon my review of your explanation, the OIG is granting your fee waiver for the processing of your request. For purposes of this request, you have been categorized as a representative of the news media. As such, we may charge you for some of our duplication costs, but we will not charge you for our search or review costs; you also are entitled to up to 100 pages of photocopies (or an equivalent volume) for free. *See* [43 C.F.R. § 2.39](#). If, after taking into consideration your fee category entitlements, our processing costs are less than \$50.00, we will not bill you because the cost of collection would be greater than the fee collected. *See* [43 C.F.R. § 2.49\(a\)\(1\)](#).

Under 43 C.F.R. § 2.15, the OIG is required to categorize each FOIA request based on the amount of time needed to process it. The five categories are: 1) Simple (1 -5 workdays); 2) Normal (6-20 workdays); 3) Complex (21-60 workdays); 4) Exceptional/Voluminous (60+ workdays); and 5) Expedited (requests that have been granted expedited processing). Within each track, requests are processed on a first-in, first-out basis. Your request has been placed in the normal track.

You may narrow the scope of your request to obtain quicker processing in your currently assigned track or move the request into a faster track (which may have the effect of reducing the cost of processing your request). If you have any questions about this, please contact us.

Please note that the OIG has a backlog of requests. Please be assured, however, that your request is being handled as equitably as possible and that all documents that can be released will be made available at the earliest date possible.

However, should you need to contact us, you can contact Mildred Washington at 202-208-6464, and the email is foia@doioig.gov.

Sincerely,

Sheri Meyers
Sheri Meyers
FOIA Intake